



TJIC Alert

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February 2012

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U.S. Cultural Diversity

1. Making Their Mark: Black Women Leaders

International Information Programs

February 2012

28 p.

Full Text: http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/en_0111_immigration.pdf

This issue of eJournal USA profiles African-American women of the 20th and 21st centuries who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. It also offers insights into how earlier generations of African-American women serve as touchstones for the present generation. The list of women featured here, while not comprehensive, is wide-ranging. It includes women who have devoted their talents and energies to business, civil rights, politics, academia and mass media. Each in her way has affirmed the American Dream not only for African Americans, but for women and men of all ethnicities.

2. What It Means to be an American: Attitudes in an Increasingly Diverse America Ten Years after 9/11

E. J. Dionne and William A. Galston

45 p.

Brookings Institution

September 6, 2011

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/0906_american_attitudes/0906_american_attitudes.pdf

Post-9/11, Americans continue to struggle with what it means to be American and how to resolve political, religious and ethnic differences in an increasingly diverse country. The report delivers new data on Americans' attitudes toward Islam, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment, issues of national security, and the role of religion and religious leaders in U.S. politics. The survey also measures the impact of growing ethnic and religious diversity on current American identity, politics and culture.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

3. **Becoming American: Beyond the Melting Pot**

International Information Programs

January 2011

32 p.

Full Text: http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Black_Women_Leaders_eJ.pdf

The United States is often referred to as the “Great Melting Pot,” a metaphor that connotes the blending of many cultures, languages and religions to form a single national identity. But this metaphor fails to capture the complex process, which is often slow and sometimes turbulent, by which immigrants of diverse backgrounds and beliefs join U.S. society, even as they transform it.

4. **Where Have All The Wise Men Gone?**

Michael Meade

Huffington Post

September 11, 2011

Currently available online at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-meade-dhl/older-vs-elder_b_954780.html

Meade, founder of the Mosaic Multicultural Foundation, writes that “we live in a time of great forgetting” – in traditional cultures, elders were respected, as without their guidance, society could lose its way. In modern life, instead of growing “older and wiser, people simply can grow older and older ... when there is no genuine growth in growing older, aging can become all about loss.” Meade writes that in a culture where older folk are in the majority, there “seems to be a lack of knowing elders who can recall essential things in the midst of the great crises troubling both nature and culture.” He believes that the gridlock in the nation’s capital, where the political parties “fight over who might be the ‘adult in the room’” is symptomatic of a lack of genuine courage and vision among older folk. While the 1960s were characterized by a youth revolution, the current stalemate may involve an “elder awakening” to solve the multiple challenges facing us, such as poverty, joblessness, climate change and sustainability.

5. **What’s Cooking, Uncle Sam?**

Alice Kamps

p. 6-12

Prologue

Summer 2011

The author is the curator of a new National Archives exhibition that chronicles the federal government’s attempts to change the American diet through laws, regulations and guidelines. Teaching people about the nutritional value of foods was one thing; getting them to change their eating habits was quite another. This is not a recent phenomenon; from 1905-1918, Frank Meyer was recruited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to travel some 10,000 miles, mostly on foot, to China, Siberia, and what was then Manchuria, Turkestan, and Mongolia, in search of new varieties of fruits, nuts, and grains for American agriculture. In the years approaching World War II, nutrition became a matter of national security. Today, the federal government monitors health and fitness of Americans through various regulatory agencies that include, besides Agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

6. **The Muslim-American Muddle**

Peter Skerry

National Affairs

Fall 2011

Full Text: <http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-muslim-american-muddle>

Skerry looks at Muslims in the United States and how Islam has both affected America and how America has affected Islam, especially in terms of political participation. The “muddle” he describes comes from the competing tugs on an individual Muslim’s loyalties to country and to faith, a problem which is greater or smaller depending on that individual’s “denomination” within Islam as well as his ethnicity and national origin. Skerry also examines the histories and roles of various Muslim and Muslim-American organizations.

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